

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 10-13 were pending. Claims 10-11 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 12-13 are pending after entry of this amendment

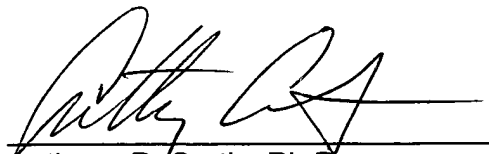
Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action of October 22, 2003, Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nikaido (EP 0 459 481 A2) and Claims 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikaido in view of Seino (U.S. Patent 5,157,414). Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-11. Only allowed Claims 12-13 remain.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks an early allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned agents or attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,



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